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What we do and don't know about the shooting of 2 National Guard members in DC

By The Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — The brazen daytime shooting of two National Guard members in the nation's capital by a man authorities identified as an Afghan national has raised multiple questions.

Officials have released the name of the suspect, who is in custody, and the names of the two Guard members who were shot, but the suspect's motive for the attack is not yet clear. Here's what we know so far, and what we don't know:

Condition of the National Guard members

The Guard members, who have been identified as Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, and Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, 24, were hospitalized in critical condition after Wednesday's shooting. They belong to the West Virginia National Guard, which deployed hundreds of troops to the nation's capital as part of President Donald Trump's crime-fighting mission that involved taking over the local police department. There were nearly 2,200 Guard members in D.C. for the mission. Both Beckstrom and Wolfe have been on orders in Washington, D.C., since August, according to the West Virginia National Guard. Beckstrom, from Webster Springs, West Virginia, entered service in June 2023. Wolfe, who is from Martinsburg, West Vir-



Emergency personnel keep a presence following the shooting of two National Guard soldiers near the White House, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025, in Washington.

ginia, entered service in February 2019.

West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey initially posted on social media that two of his state's Guard members were killed. He later walked that back, saying his office was "receiving conflicting reports" about their condition. Morrisey has not elaborated.

How the attack unfolded

Jeanine Pirro, the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, said the suspect, Rahmanullah Lakanwal, drove across the country to launch an "ambush-style" attack with a .357 Smith & Wesson revolver.

Video reviewed by investigators showed the as-

sailant "came around the corner" and immediately started firing at the troops, according to Jeffery Carroll, an executive assistant D.C. police chief.

At least one Guard member exchanged gunfire with the shooter, a law enforcement official said. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Troops ran over and held down the shooter, Carroll said, and he was taken into custody. Authorities believe he was the only gunman.

Carroll said that it was not clear whether one of the Guard members or a law enforcement officer shot the suspect and that investigators so far had no information on a motive.

The suspect's wounds were not believed to be life-threatening, one of the officials said.

The suspect and his pathway to the US

Lakanwal, 29, entered the U.S. in 2021 through Operation Allies Welcome, a Biden administration program that evacuated and resettled tens of thousands of Afghans after the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from the country, officials said.

Lakanwal applied for asylum during the Biden administration, but his asylum

(AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

was approved under the Trump administration, #AfghanEvac said in a statement.

Supporters have said there was extensive vetting and the program offered a lifeline to people at risk of Taliban reprisals. The initiative brought roughly 76,000 people to the U.S., many of whom had worked alongside U.S. troops and diplomats as interpreters and translators. The program has drawn intense criticism from President Donald Trump and other Republicans over what they have argued are gaps in the vetting process and the speed of admissions. Supporters have said the initiative has offered a lifeline to people at risk of Taliban reprisals. Prior to his arrival in the United States, the suspect worked with the U.S. government, including the CIA, "as a member of a partner force in Kandahar," John Ratcliffe, the spy agency's director, said in a statement.

Ratcliffe did not specify what work Lakanwal did, but said the relationship "ended shortly following the chaotic evacuation" of U.S. service members from Afghanistan.

A resident of the eastern Afghan province of Khost who identified himself as

Lakanwal's cousin said Lakanwal was originally from the province. The cousin, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, said Lakanwal had worked in a special Afghan Army unit known as Zero Units. A former official from the unit, who also spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation, said Lakanwal was a team leader and his brother was a platoon leader.

Zero Units were paramilitary units manned by Afghans but backed by the CIA and also served in front-line fighting with CIA paramilitary officers. Activists had attributed abuses to the units. They played a key role in the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from the country, providing security around Kabul International Airport as the Americans and others fell back during the Taliban offensive that seized the country.

The cousin said Lakanwal started out working as a security guard for the unit in 2012, and was later promoted to become a team leader and a GPS specialist.

Lakanwal's former landlord, Kristina Widman, said Lakanwal had been living in Washington state with his wife and five children.

Pirro said Lakanwal currently faces charges of assault with intent to kill while armed and possession of a firearm during a crime of violence. The charges could be upgraded, she added.

"We are praying that they survive and that the highest charge will not have to be murder in the first degree. But make no mistake, if they do not, that will certainly be the charge," she said. Pirro said that "it's too soon to say" what the suspect's motives were.

More National Guard troops

Soon after the shooting, Trump said he would send 500 more National Guard troops to Washington, D.C. It's not clear where the additional troops would come from. □

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Trump says he's barring South Africa from participating in next year's G20 summit near Miami

By JOSH BOAK

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he is barring South Africa from participating in the Group of 20 summit next year at his Miami-area club and will stop all payments and subsidies to the country over its treatment of a U.S. government representative at this year's global meeting.

Trump chose not to have an American government delegation attend last weekend's summit hosted by South Africa, saying he did so because its white Afrikaners were being violently persecuted. It is a claim that South Africa, which was mired for decades in racial apartheid, has rejected as baseless.

The Republican president, in a social media post, said South Africa had refused to hand over its G20 hosting responsibilities to a senior representative of the U.S. Embassy when the summit ended.

"Therefore, at my direction, South Africa will NOT be receiving an invitation to the 2026 G20, which will



People walk by a large screen TV where South African President Cyril Ramaphosa holds a wooden gavel as he officially closes the G20 leaders' summit, in Johannesburg, South Africa, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025.

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

be hosted in the Great City of Miami, Florida next year," Trump posted on Truth Social.

"South Africa has demonstrated to the World they are not a country worthy of Membership anywhere," he said, "and we are going to stop all payments and subsidies to them, effective immediately."

South Africa said it considered the U.S. decision to appoint a local embassy official for the G20 handover an insult. The ceremony instead happened at its Foreign Ministry building after the summit "as the United States was not present at the summit," a statement from South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's of-

fice said.

The statement said Ramaphosa "noted the regrettable statement by President Donald Trump on South Africa's participation in the 2026 G20 meetings."

It also pushed back against Trump's widely rejected claims that Afrikaner farmers are being killed and having their land taken

away, saying that Trump "continues to apply punitive measures against South Africa based on misinformation and distortions about our country."

In some ways, Trump views next year's G20 summit as personal, given that he announced it will be at his golf club in Doral, Florida.

This year's summit in Johannesburg, the first held in Africa, was boycotted by the United States, a G20 founding member and the world's biggest economy. The meeting's declaration, giving more attention to issues that affect developing countries, went unsigned by Washington, and the Trump administration expressed its opposition to South Africa's agenda, especially the parts that focus on climate change.

The U.S. has now taken over the rotating presidency of the G20, leaving the long-term impact of the South African declaration unclear.

Trump has claimed that white Afrikaner farmers in South Africa are being killed and that their land is being seized. □

Federal judge expands access to bond hearings for detained immigrants nationwide

By VALERIE GONZALEZ

Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — A federal judge in California has expanded a decision granting more detained immigrants the ability to request a bond hearing after the Trump administration ended the practice in July. Lawyers say thousands could benefit from the order, but it's expected to be appealed.

U.S. District Judge Sunshine S. Sykes on Tuesday expanded an order from last week granting detained immigrants with no criminal history the opportunity to request a bond hearing. Now, instead of only impacting a few named in the California lawsuit, the decision will apply to immigrants held in detention nationwide.

It's part of an ongoing lawsuit challenging changes the Trump administration made over the summer when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it was revisiting its authority to detain people and would make noncitizens ineligible for bond hearings before an immigration judge.

Prior to the policy change, most noncitizens with no criminal record who were arrested away from the border had an opportunity to request such a hearing and if bond was granted remain free while their cases wound through immigration court. Sykes issued an order on Thursday that found the new policy unlawful.

A spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, Tricia McLaughlin, re-

leased a statement Wednesday that pointed to a September decision from the Justice Department's Board of Immigration Appeals allowing the new policy.

She said the previous policy "dangerously unleashed millions of unvetted illegal aliens into American communities and they used many loopholes to do so."

Her statement did not say whether Sykes' decision would be appealed and the department did not respond to questions on the matter. Tuesday's decision could impact thousands of immigrants but not all. Those with criminal convictions or who have an expedited removal order would still not be allowed a bond hearing.

Matt Adams, lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said he has

heard of immigration judges already advising some immigrants of their right to a bond hearing since Sykes' orders were filed.

"These are people who've been living here in the United States, many for years, many for decades, who have U.S.

citizen family members, who have no criminal history, who do not present any danger or threat of a flight risk, and yet they were being locked up without any possibility of being released during these lengthy proceedings," Adams said. □



FILE - The Department of Homeland Security logo is seen during a news conference in Washington, Feb. 25, 2015

. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

At least 83 dead as Hong Kong firefighters battle burning towers for a second day

By **CHAN HO-HIM and HUIZHONG WU**

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Firefighters battled for a second day to extinguish a blaze at a high-rise apartment complex in Hong Kong on Thursday, as the death toll rose to 83 in one of the deadliest blazes in the city's modern history. Rescuers holding flashlights were going from apartment to apartment at the charred towers as thick smoke poured out from some windows at the Wang Fuk Court complex, a dense cluster of buildings housing thousands of people in Tai Po district, a northern suburb near Hong Kong's border with the mainland.

Officials said firefighters were still working on a handful of apartments and trying to enter all of the units in the seven towers to ensure there were no further casualties. "Our firefighting operation is almost complete," said Derek Armstrong Chan, deputy director of Fire Services Operations. Firefighters were working hard "to prevent the debris and embers from flaring up. What's next is the search and rescue operation," he added.



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire which broke out Wednesday at Wang Fuk Court, a residential estate in the Tai Po district of Hong Kong's New Territories, Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025.

(AP Photo/Chan Long Hei)

It was unclear how many people remained missing or trapped. Hong Kong leader John Lee said contact had been lost with 279 people early Thursday. Authorities did not provide updates on the missing people or how many were still inside the ravaged buildings Thursday during a press conference. Video showed rescuers searching in some apartments in the dark. Orange flames were still seen from inside several windows,

though the whole complex was now largely a blackened ruin. Firefighters have been trying to control the flames since midafternoon Wednesday, when the fire was believed to have started in bamboo scaffolding and construction netting and then spread across seven of the complex's eight buildings.

Chan said the blaze spread "exceptionally fast" across the towers, and emergency workers struggled to

gain access inside.

"Debris and scaffolding were falling from upper floors," he told reporters. "There are also other reasons like high temperature, darkness (and) emergency vehicle access was blocked by fallen scaffolding and debris, making our access to the building very difficult." More than 70 people were injured, including 11 firefighters, the Fire Services Department said. About 900 people

were evacuated to temporary shelters overnight.

Pope Leo XIV sent a telegram to Hong Kong's bishop Thursday, saying he was saddened by the fire and offering prayers for the injured, their families and emergency workers.

Resident Lawrence Lee was waiting for news about his wife, who he believed was still trapped in their apartment.

"When the fire started, I told her on the phone to escape. But once she left the flat, the corridor and stairs were all filled with smoke and it was all dark, so she had no choice but to go back to the flat," he said, as he waited in one of the shelters overnight.

Winter and Sandy Chung, who lived in one of the towers, said they saw sparks fly around as they evacuated Wednesday afternoon. Although they were safe, they were worried about their home. "I couldn't sleep the entire night," Winter Chung, 75, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Three arrested on suspicion of manslaughter

Three men, the directors and an engineering consultant of a construction company, were arrested on suspicion of manslaughter. □



Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks during a press conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Jan. 6, 2014.

(AP Photo/Rajesh Kumar Singh, File)

By **JULHAS ALAM**

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced Thursday to 21 years in prison in three corruption cases related to allocations of land in a government project.

She was sentenced to death earlier this month for crimes against humanity involving the crackdown on the mass uprising that ended her 15-year rule last year. She is in exile in India, and all of the trials have been conducted in absentia. The three verdicts

Ousted leader Hasina sentenced in Bangladesh land corruption case

found Hasina guilty of illegally securing plots in the Purbachal New Town project for herself and her family despite their ineligibility. Each sentence was seven years in prison, and Dhaka Special Court Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun said Hasina would need to serve them consecutively.

Her son Sajeeb Wazed and daughter Saima Wazed were each sentenced to five years in prison in one of the three cases.

All of them have been found guilty of "hiding information on" their property in Dhaka to illegally obtain

three plots of land in the project by exploiting state power, the judge said.

Hasina and her former ruling Awami League party have denounced the trials against her. She did not appoint a defense lawyer, and global human rights groups have questioned the credibility and fairness of the trial process against Hasina. In a message to The Associated Press after Thursday's verdict, Hasina's son in Washington D.C. said that the aim of the conviction was "to prevent any of my family (members) from running for elections" in the future.

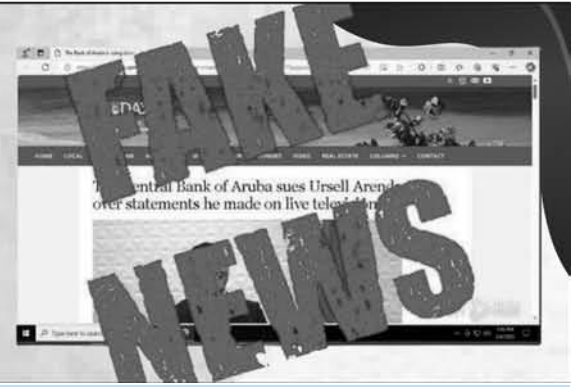
"The charges against each of us were for purchasing a 1/6 acre plot of land, on the outskirts of Dhaka in an empty area for \$30,000 each. This was another rapid trial, we were not allowed to hire attorneys and received no communications. This was yet another kangaroo court judgment," he said.

The Anti-corruption Commission filed the three cases against Hasina and her son and daughter and others after her ouster. Other cases also involve the land project, and another verdict is expected Dec. 1 in a separate case. □

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UK government welcomes sharp fall in net migration but says more needs to be done



Britain's Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood departs 10 Downing Street in London, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government welcomed the news Thursday that net migration in the U.K., the difference between those moving to the country long-term and those leaving, fell by more than two-thirds in the year to June, but insisted that the figure must fall further in order to ease tensions within communities.

The Office for National Statistics said net migration fell 69% to a four-year low of 204,000 in the year to June 2025 from 649,000 the year before, largely because fewer people from outside the European Union arrived in the U.K. for work or to study, along with an increase in people moving out of the country.

The British government will hope that the sharp decline will help lower the temperature around an issue that has risen on the political agenda this year. However, voter concerns

have largely centered on illegal migration, specifically on the difficulties successive governments have had in getting a grip on asylum-seekers making dangerous small boat crossings across the English Channel.

That number, though running at almost 40,000 this year, represents a fraction of the total immigration figure.

In the year to June, the statistics agency said long-term immigration stood at 898,000, against nearly 1.3 million over the corresponding period the year before.

Net migration in the U.K. peaked at a record 944,000 in the year to March 2023 in the wake of the lifting of restrictions following the coronavirus pandemic, a new immigration system introduced following the U.K.'s departure from the European Union and the arrival of those fleeing war in Ukraine and China's clampdown in Hong Kong.

Tighter immigration policies from the previous Conservative administration and the Labour government, which came into power in July 2024, have contributed to the declines seen over the past couple of years.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood welcomed the latest figures but said the government must go further "because the pace and scale of migration has placed immense pressure on local communities."

Last week, she announced plans to tighten the U.K. asylum system with a series of sweeping changes that aim to reduce immigration and quell the political storm over migrants arriving in small boats.

In July, the government also introduced changes to migration rules, including an end overseas recruitment for care workers and a raise in the annual salary threshold again for skilled worker visas to 41,700 pounds (\$55,000). □



France's President Emmanuel Macron, unveils a new national military service as he speaks to the army at the military base in Varcès, French Alps, Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025.

(AP Photo/Thomas Padilla, Pool)

French president unveils new military program for volunteers aged 18 and 19

VARCES, France (AP) — President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday unveiled a new program meant to bolster France's armed forces by training thousands of volunteers aged 18 and 19 starting next year, part of a broader response to concerns over Russia's threat to European nations beyond the war in Ukraine.

The young volunteers will serve in uniform for 10 months in France's mainland and oversea territories only, not in military operations abroad, Macron said in a speech at the Varcès military base, which is located in the French Alps. "A new national service is set to be gradually established, starting from this summer," Macron said. "In this uncertain world where power prevails over law and war is an ever-present reality, our nation has no right to fear, panic, unpreparedness, or division."

The program will start with 3,000 youth to be selected next summer and will gradually increase to 10,000 per year by 2030. France has ambitions to reach up to 50,000 volunteers per year by 2035, a figure that will be adjusted depending on the global context, Macron added.

A path for reservists

Volunteers will hold military status and receive wages and equipment. After a month of training, they will be assigned for nine months to a unit in which they will perform the same missions as active military personnel, he detailed. They will then join the military reserve and continue their education or start working.

Those who wish will be able to start a professional career in the active military, Macron said. Regular soldiers in France generally enlist for a 2- to 10-year renewable periods of time.

Conscription, which France ended in 1996, is not being considered.

Only under "exceptional circumstances" may parliament authorize enlisting those whose skills were identified during a one-day defense course, which all youths go through, and make national service mandatory for those people, Macron said. □

Dominican Republic grants US access to restricted areas for its deadly fight against drugs

By **DÁNICA COTO** Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader announced Wednesday that he has authorized the U.S. government to operate inside restricted areas in the Caribbean country to help in its fight against drug trafficking.

For a limited time, the U.S. can refuel aircraft and transport equipment and technical personnel at restricted areas within the San Isidro Air Base and Las Américas International Airport, said Abinader, who made the announcement with U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth at his side.

Hegseth was in Santo Domingo Wednesday to meet with the country's top leaders, including Abinader and Minister of Defense Lt. Gen. Carlos Antonio Fernández Onofre.

It is the first major public agreement that the U.S. has struck with a Caribbean nation as it seeks friendly allies to support its attacks against alleged drug-smuggling boats in the region and beyond. Since the strikes began in early September, at least 83 people have been killed.

Hegseth said the Dominican Republic was a regional leader willing to take on hard challenges.

"That's why I'm here today. That's why we decided to



U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth speaks during a press conference after a meeting with Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader at the National Palace in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025.

come here first," he said. "The Dominican Republic has stepped up."

Hegseth said the U.S. would respect the Caribbean country's sovereignty and laws as U.S. service members and aircraft prepare to deploy to the Dominican Republic. He did not provide additional details. Meanwhile, Abinader said the scope of the agreement is "technical, limited, and temporary."

"The purpose is clear: to strengthen the air and maritime protection ring maintained by our Armed Forces, a decisive reinforcement to prevent the entry of narcot-

ics and to strike a more decisive blow against transnational organized crime," he said.

After a news conference where no questions were allowed, the office of the president issued a statement with more details, noting that several KC-135 tanker aircraft would be present to support air patrol missions, expanding monitoring and interdiction capabilities over a large portion of the maritime and air domains. "They would also provide refueling services to aircraft from partner countries, thus ensuring sustained operations for monitoring, detecting,

and tracking verified illicit smuggling activities," according to the statement. Additionally, C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft would facilitate aeromedical evacuations, firefighting, weather reconnaissance, and disaster relief, the office said.

Abinader noted that the Dominican Republic has seized nearly 10 times more drugs per year in the past five years than in the previous decade thanks to close collaboration with the U.S. "Our country faces a real threat, a threat that knows no borders, no flags, that destroys families, and that has been trying to use our

territory for decades," he said. "That threat is drug trafficking, and no country can or should confront it without allies."

Hegseth praised Abinader, saying that the Dominican Republic "understands the importance of standing up to narco-terrorists and narco-traffickers who flood our countries with drugs and violence."

"We're deadly serious about this mission," Hegseth said, asserting that the U.S. has the best intelligence, lawyers and process. "We know...where they're leaving from, where they're going, what they're bringing, what their intentions are, who they represent."

Some experts believe the ongoing strikes are a tactic to try and pressure Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to step down given that the U.S. military has built up its largest presence in the region in generations.

Hegseth's visit comes a day after Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. President Donald Trump's primary military adviser, met with Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

The prime minister has praised the strikes, drawing criticism ever since stating in early September that she had no sympathy for drug traffickers and that "the U.S. military should kill them all violently." □

(AP Photo/Ricardo Hernandez)

Former Peruvian President Pedro Castillo sentenced for conspiracy



Former President Pedro Castillo, who faces charges of rebellion and other crimes against the state, attends his sentence hearing at a police base on the outskirts of Lima, Peru, Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025.

(AP Photo/Guadalupe Pardo)

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peru's Supreme Court sentenced former President Pedro Castillo to 11.5 years in prison for conspiracy to commit a rebellion in 2022, when he tried to dissolve the Congress as lawmakers prepared to impeach him.

A special panel of the highest court also banned Castillo, 56, from public office for two years. He has been in custody since being arrested in December 2022.

Two of Castillo's former ministers were also sentenced to 11.5 years in prison for the same crime. One of them is ex-Prime Minister Betssy Chávez, who was granted asylum by Mexico and remains inside the Mexican embassy in Peru's capital, Lima. The Peruvian government severed diplomatic relations with Mexico over the asylum to Chávez.

Castillo and his former ministers can ap-

peal the decision.

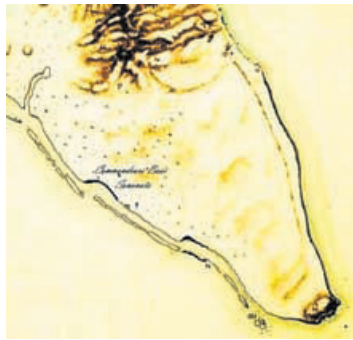
This is the second Peruvian ex-president sentenced this week. A different court on Wednesday sentenced former leader Martín Vizcarra to 14 years in prison after finding him guilty of taking bribes while serving as governor of a southern state.

Castillo promised to be a champion of the poor when he took office in 2021, becoming the first president in the nation's history to come from a poor farming community. He assumed the presidency without any political experience.

Castillo was replaced by his Vice President Dina Boluarte, who in October was also removed from office after a deeply unpopular government and amid a crime wave affecting the South American nation. The current president is José Jerí, who was the Congress leader. □

The district of Savaneta: A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.



Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he

saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" (Kibrahacha) trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were

interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name
The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill



called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabit-

ants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: *Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta)* by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



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Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

(ORANJESTAD) – Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.

SS Antilla

Dubbed "The Ghost Ship", SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship's story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship's German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be confiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advantage of a delay caused by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her seacock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was arrested, but SS Antilla could not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun aboard the 'Aruba' at SS Antilla and left her to sink.

The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you'll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough.



SS Pedernales

Like the Antilla, the story of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Venezuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkel-

ing site that has attracted many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the north-west coast of Aruba, and is no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and divers of all levels.

Jane Sea Wreck

The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet underwater. Jane's story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

Launched in 1959, the 190-foot ship was initially called "Blackthorn". Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea.

Jane was a cement freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.

The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went out for her owner to claim her. However, several years went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane Sea earned the nickname Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully

overgrown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba's precious nature. □

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Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves.

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

Woman in Quadirikiri Cave, Arikok National Park, Aruba

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover.



Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes

through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here

is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This

cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy. Take care to not disturb the bats' habitat. □



The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history



(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back

to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70.



Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds

worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curaçao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for

gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa



(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when traveling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas
Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for

parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito
Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of Pos Chiquito. Though there are several stairs on the sides

Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!

of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach
Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for

your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok
Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy

beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore. □



Cas di Torto



Cas di torto (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were usually found around the plantations. The few structures that still exist are the oldest structures that are left standing in the country.

The technique probably came over from the Venezuelan Paraguaná Peninsula

in the 18th century. Existing houses date back 150 years. Until 1925 many houses on Aruba were built using this technique, afterwards it fell into disuse. In 2005 there were 62 cas di torto houses left, of which only four were in good condition.

The skeleton of the houses is made up of round wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing



the structural support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and paragrass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which gives the white color and helps to protect against the weather.

On top of the poles pieces of wood are fitted that serve as the base for the roof beams. Until 1815 the roofing usually

consisted of corn (maize) stems, afterwards the nuclei of columnar cacti were used. The floor is made of loam, mixed with cement or cow dung.

The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen would be a wooden or metal bar-

rel for storing water that was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on mats on the floor.

If you visit the Arikok National Park you will be able to see a very nice cas di torto. □

Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia – Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean



language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all

originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitorias on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable – Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the

quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century. □

Source: Dushi Aruba

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Tenant's fee

1 Massage target

5 Hams' needs

11 Sound of agony

12 To-do list

13 Shed feathers

14 Struck out

15 "The Mikado," for one

17 Oxygen: Prefix

18 Chaser of Bugs

22 Patisserie array

24 Long attack

25 One — kind

26 Sinking signal

27 Corbin Bernsen series

30 Wild party

32 Vestige

33 Gun, as a motor

34 Neighbor-ing

38 Wee amount

41 Pine or palm

42 Depends

43 Balder's father

44 Finally

DOWN 1 Clip contents

2 Hen pen

3 National park in Hawaii

4 Menu choice

5 River floater

6 Some marbles

7 National park in Alaska

8 Tavern

9 Pindar poem

10 Blue

16 Hosp. parts

19 National park in Colorado

20 Big heads

21 Take a breather

22 Future stallion

23 Miles off

28 National park in Maine

29 Cheese buys

30 Lingerie item

31 Church reader

35 Witty remark

36 German denial

37 Circus sight

38 Mrs., in Madrid

39 Ran into

40 Suffering

M	A	T	H		E	S	C	R	O	W
E	C	R	U		E	Q	U	I	N	E
S	E	A	M		R	U	B	B	E	D
A	S	P		D	I	A	S			
			E	L	D	E	R		D	A
			D	A	Z	E	S		E	L
			I	N	O	N			I	D
			E	N	I	A	C		C	R
			T	E	D		I	S	A	A
					D	R	E	W		A
					M	A	L	I	C	E
					A	G	E	O	L	D
					R	O	O	N	E	Y
								A	N	T

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15					16					
			17				18		19	20
22	23						24			
25								26		
27				28	29		30	31		
32							33			
			34		35				36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

W NSZZNC AXMC GEB, W
NSZZNC AXMC NXTC, W
NSZZNC AXMC NSPUZ CTCMI
BSPUZ. ZUWZ'L ZUC YXI XG
UWBERRWU. — EBRBXFB

Cryptoquote: GRATITUDE MAKES
SENSE OF OUR PAST, BRINGS PEACE FOR TODAY,
AND CREATES A VISION FOR TOMORROW.
— MELODY BEATTIE

Cruise ship Schedule: Nov. 23 - 30 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
SUN	23	MSC DIVINA FREEWINDS - Dept.	08.00 ****	18.00 22.30	C E	1 -
TUE	25	WIND SPIRIT CARNIVAL HORIZON	06.00 09.00	15.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	26	SERENADE OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	23.00 ****	C E	1 1
THU	27	AIDABLU BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS	08.00 08.00	18.00 ****	B C	 1
FRI	28	SILVER SHADOW BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS - Dept.	08.00 ****	**** 18.00	B C	1
SAT	29	SILVER SHADOW - Dept. SEVEN SEAS SPLENDOR	**** 14.00	13.00 23.59	B C	 1
SUN	30	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

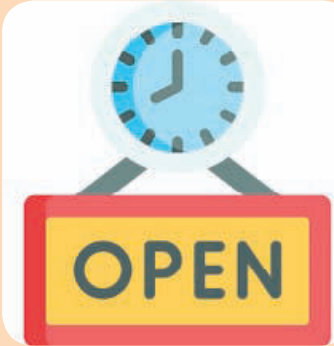
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	2			7		4		3
		3				6	5	
			3				8	
9	1				8	3		
8			7					
	5	7	2					
1		8			3	2		
						5		
		4		2		8	6	

Difficulty: ★★★★★

11/28

Answer to previous puzzle

7	3	4	1	9	5	8	6	2
8	5	9	6	2	4	7	3	1
6	1	2	8	3	7	5	9	4
4	6	7	3	5	1	9	2	8
5	8	3	2	4	9	1	7	6
2	9	1	7	6	8	4	5	3
9	4	6	5	8	3	2	1	7
1	2	5	4	7	6	3	8	9
3	7	8	9	1	2	6	4	5

Difficulty: ★★★

11/27

US-Russian crew of 3 blasts off to the International Space Station in a Russian Soyuz spacecraft

MOSCOW (AP) — A U.S.-Russian crew of three began a mission to the International Space Station aboard a Russian spacecraft following a successful launch Thursday.

A Soyuz booster rocket lifted off at 2:27 p.m. (9:27 a.m. GMT) from the Russia-leased Baikonur launch facility in Kazakhstan to put the Soyuz MS-28 into orbit. The spacecraft carried NASA astronaut Chris Williams and two Russian crewmates, Sergei Mikaev and Sergei Kud-Sverchkov. The craft docked at the International Space Station approximately three hours after liftoff at 5:34 p.m.

(12:34 p.m. GMT).

All three are expected to spend about eight months at the orbiting outpost. NASA said this is the first spaceflight for Williams, a physicist, and Mikaev, a military pilot. This is the second flight for Kud-Sverchkov.

At the International Space Station, the trio will join NASA astronauts Mike Fincke, Zena Cardman and Jonny Kim, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's astronaut Kimiya Yui and Russian cosmonauts Sergei Ryzhikov, Alexei Zubritsky and Oleg Platonov. Williams will conduct scientific research and technol-



In this photo taken from video released by Roscosmos space corporation, the Soyuz-2.1 rocket booster with Soyuz MS-28 space ship carrying NASA astronaut Chris Williams and Roscosmos cosmonauts Sergey Kud-Sverchkov and Sergey Mikaev, a new crew to the International Space Station, ISS, blasts off in Russian leased Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025.

(Roscosmos space corporation, via AP)

ogy demonstrations at the orbiting outpost aimed at advancing human space exploration and benefiting life on Earth, NASA said. □

Mexico plans to build Latin America's most powerful supercomputer



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum speaks at her first state-of-the-nation address at the National Palace in Mexico City, Sept. 1, 2025.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo, File)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico unveiled plans Wednesday to build what it claims will be Latin America's most powerful supercomputer a project the government says will help the country capitalize on the rapidly evolving uses of artificial intelligence and exponentially expand the country's computing capacity. Dubbed "Coatlícue" for the Mexica goddess considered the earth mother, the supercomputer would be seven times more powerful than the region's current leader in Brazil, José Merino, head of the Telecommunications and Digital Transformation Agency. President Claudia Shein-

baum said during her morning news briefing that the location for the project had not been decided yet, but construction will begin next year. "We're very excited," said Sheinbaum, an academic and climate scientist. "It is going to allow Mexico to fully get in on the use of artificial intelligence and the processing of data that today we don't have the capacity to do."

Merino said that Mexico's most powerful supercomputer operates at 2.3 petaflops a unit to measure computing speed, mean-

ing it can perform one quadrillion operations per second. Coatlícue would have a capacity of 314 petaflops. □



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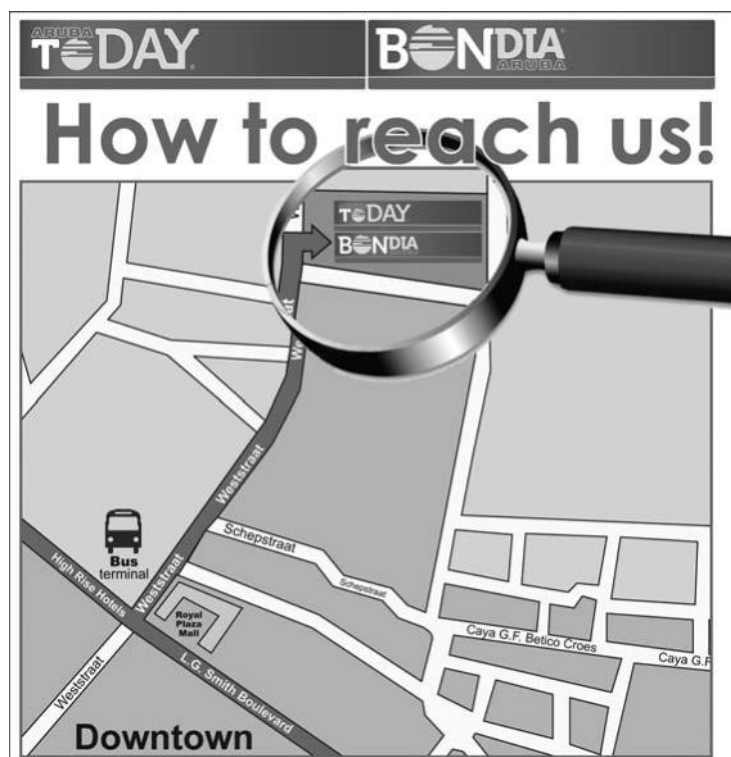
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DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico: Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
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+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

James Jones was a player, then a GM and now he's seeing the NBA through a different lens

By **TIM REYNOLDS** AP Basketball Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) —

There's 3:42 left in the fourth quarter of an Orlando vs. Golden State game. Magic guard Jalen Suggs and Warriors forward Jimmy Butler III are bouncing off each other, jostling for rebound position underneath one of the baskets. Suggs winds up on the floor, and tempers are clearly flaring.

In their seats a few rows above midcourt, James Jones and Tim Kuck are watching it all happen. Jones is an executive vice president for the NBA, Kuck is a vice president, both in the basketball operations department. They have their phones in hand, neither saying a word. They watched the referees get both sides to calm down before things escalated. And when it was all over, when cooler heads prevailed after some back-and-forth jawing that lasted a minute or so, they leaned back in their seats and seemed to relax a bit. "Back to the game," Jones said. Had things gotten ugly, this is when Jones and Kuck would have been called into action. When there is any in-game issue for the league to address, from an altercation to a call that teams want to argue after the fact and countless things in between, they are among those on the front lines of figuring out



Phoenix Suns general manager James Jones speaks to the media, on April 24, 2019, in Phoenix. (AP Photo/Matt York, File)

what really happened and what the league should do, if anything, when it comes to handing down sanctions or trying to fix problems.

"I say it all the time," Jones said. "Give everyone clear boundaries, let them play the game, don't deviate from it, be consistent and everyone will figure everything out."

Since this season started, Jones and Kuck have been traveling all around the league to see games live, meet with teams, meet with referees and listen to whatever people want to say to them. Jones also carries the title of head of basketball operations a fancy way

of saying he's in charge of player discipline and Kuck works closely with him on just about everything.

It's not uncommon to find them watching games well past midnight in the Eastern time zone, simply because nobody knows when an issue will pop up that needs to be addressed. And when the games are done, they spend most of the next day watching specific plays from the previous night before the process starts all over again with a new slate of games.

"The relationships are absolutely crucial," Kuck said. "Everyone in this orbit can shoot each other straight

even when the conversations are difficult. The underlying trust enables that." Jones was an NBA player for 14 seasons. He helped teams in Miami and Cleveland reach the NBA Finals in each of the last seven years of his career. He was part of three championship runs, was an officer in the National Basketball Players Association and then became a general manager. He has seen the league through plenty of prisms.

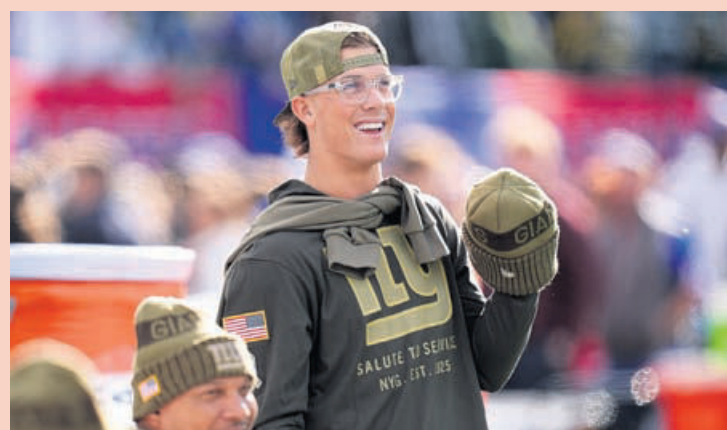
"This one is different," he said.

This one is very different. Jones is a rookie again in this role, one where he shifts from the player and team

side to the league side. He and Kuck, who had a long relationship before this season through Jones' role as a GM and a player, quickly clicked and now they've hit the road together to talk to teams and see what's really going on around the league.

The Associated Press was given access inside their recent trip to Orlando, including private meetings with Magic coach Jamahl Mosley, Warriors coach Steve Kerr and referees going into the game. Mosley and Kerr are both coaches who worked closely with the league office on key matters, including the emphasis this season on ensuring the "high-five foul" the one where a defender slaps the hand of a jump shooter is adjudicated correctly. Mosley, seated at a round table inside what used to be the Magic practice court less than an hour before game time, talked a bit about calls and their interpretation when he met with Jones and Kuck. Mostly, though, he just expressed how he likes how things are going. "I've said it before and I'll say it 500 more times, the game is in such a great space," Mosley told them. "The way we're playing today ... it's beautiful. Pace is up, the competition, the physicality, and everybody's happy because we all know what to expect." Kerr chatted with them in a vacant locker room, talking about the demands of the schedule but sharing similar sentiments as Mosley did about how the league, coaches and players all seem to have understanding of what's happening. As was the case for the meeting with Mosley, the mood is light and friendly, and the conversation is direct. Kerr said some things, Jones said some things, Kuck said some things, everyone smiled and shook hands afterward and that was it. A quick meeting with the referees followed, mostly talking about upcoming travel. □

Giants rookie quarterback Jaxson Dart clears concussion protocol



New York Giants' Jaxson Dart is seen before an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025, in East Rutherford, N.J.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Jaxson Dart has cleared concussion protocol, paving the way for the rookie quarterback to start for the New York Giants at New England on Monday night after missing the past two games. Dart was concussed Nov. 9 at Chicago and did not finish that loss to the Bears.

He was a full participant in practice Wednesday, which was the final step for him getting cleared Thursday.

The 22-year-old first-round draft pick out of Mississippi has thrown for 10 touchdowns and run for five more with just three interceptions in his first seven NFL starts.

Journeyman Jameis Winston started in Dart's place the past two weeks.

The Giants are 2-10 and have been eliminated from playoff contention. □

Less than 3 weeks after cancer surgery, Broncos' Alex Singleton is back in the game

By ARNIE STAPLETON AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)

— Alex Singleton is playing football again less than three weeks after undergoing surgery to remove a cancerous testicular tumor that he feared would spell the end of his NFL career. Denver's leading tackler aims to play at Washington (3-8) this weekend when the Broncos (9-2) try to extend their eight-game winning streak.

"We're tracking that way," the 31-year-old linebacker said about 24 hours after going on "Good Morning America" to talk about his diagnosis and the need for early detection for a disease that affects about one in 250 American men. Singleton was notified Oct. 27, one day after he had 11 tackles and forced a fumble in a win over the Cowboys, that a random NFL-mandated drug test had revealed elevated levels of a hormone called human chorionic gonadotropin, indicating either the injection of a performance-enhancing drug or testicular cancer.

After a 10-tackle performance against the Texans, he underwent an ultrasound that confirmed he had cancer.



FILE - Denver Broncos inside linebacker Alex Singleton watches from the sidelines during the second half of an NFL football game against the Las Vegas Raiders Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025, in Denver. (AP Photo/Jack Dempsey, File)

Surgery was scheduled for a day after the Broncos game against the Raiders when Singleton had nine stops in Denver's 10-7 win on a Thursday night.

He informed the team of his cancer diagnosis three days after his surgery. "He just got up in the team meeting and said, 'I've got cancer,'" teammate Malcolm Roach said. "We're like, 'What? You've got cancer? You were just on the field with us Thursday night.' He told us that he just had surgery and everything went good. He said, 'I'm gonna be back after the

bye week.' We were like, 'OK.' Man, he really was back after the bye week." Singleton only missed one game, against Kansas City prior to the Broncos' bye last week. But he was heavily involved in the preparation for the Chiefs and huddled that week with his replacement, Justin Strnad, and the other linebackers. "I just love these guys," Singleton said. "I love this team and this organization, and I love this game. So if it was my last game, what I want to do when I'm done is coach anyway, so let's start now. All you want is to see

your guys shine."

The surgery and the pathology reports that followed have painted a clearer picture for Singleton's recovery prognosis, which is excellent, but leading up to the Raiders game, doubts crept in about his football future.

"The one thing I wanted to do was play that game," Singleton said. "Because if it was (his last game), I wanted to go out on my own terms."

Successful surgery and good news from the pathology reports had Singleton shifting his focus back to

football and a quick return to the field, which came at practice on Wednesday.

"Yeah, I'm still processing the fact that I had it at all much less just being back practicing," Singleton said, calling cancer "a huge word. It's a scary word. I don't even like saying it all the time because it freaks me out. But yeah, hopefully it's behind me."

Singleton will continue to undergo frequent testing to make sure the cancer is gone and didn't spread.

He said the support he's received from his teammates and fans who direct message him he can't respond to all of them has been "the best thing ever." He experienced something similar last year when he sustained a season-ending ACL injury. "And I thought that was great, but obviously this, just cancer in general, is a scary word," Singleton said. "So, yeah, just the support and love, you learn they don't only care about football. They care about you as a person and it meant a lot to me."

Singleton figures his first tackle against the Commanders could be an emotional moment.

"I cried after the ACL, so this one might be a little harder," Singleton said. □

Top Russian figure skaters get IOC approval to compete at Winter Olympics in Milan

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Three figure skaters from Russia and Belarus, including an Olympic gold medal prospect, were approved Thursday by the IOC to compete as neutrals at the Milan Cortina Winter Games in February. They include 18-year-old Adelina Petrosian, who showed medal potential in the women's singles event when winning an Olympic qualifying event in Beijing in September.

Petr Gumennik, the Russian singles champion, won the men's event in Beijing two months ago and Viktoriia Safonova of Belarus was fourth behind Petrosian. They also got approved neutral status, the International Olympic Committee said.

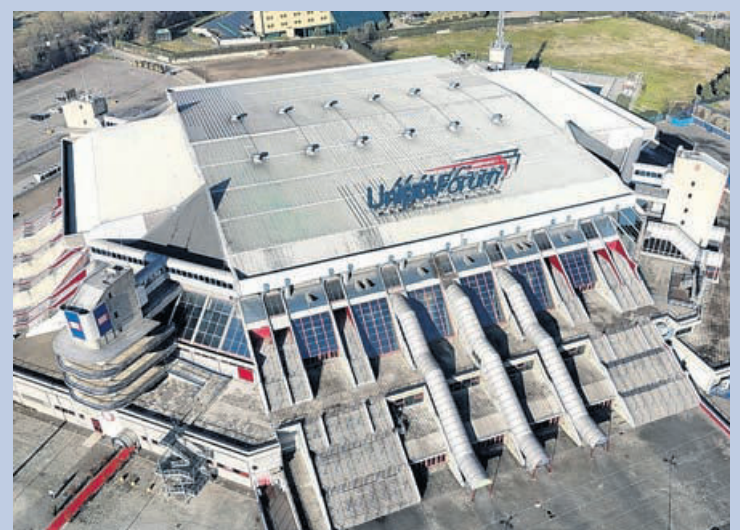
The Beijing qualifying event was the first time Russians were allowed by the International Skating Union to compete at one of its figure skating events since the

full military invasion of Ukraine started in 2022 just four days after the end of the Beijing Olympics.

The IOC is doing its own vetting to approve Russian and Belarusian athletes for neutral status to compete at Milan Cortina, as it did before the 2024 Paris Summer Games.

To be eligible, individual athletes must not have actively supported the invasion of Ukraine nor have ties to Russian or Belarusian military and state security agencies. The figure skaters must also accept their individual invitation and sign a commitment to respect the Olympic Charter, the IOC said.

Petrosian is the latest star skater trained by coach Eteri Tutberidze, who was a controversial personality at the Beijing Olympics. □



A view of the Assago Forum which will be the Milano Ice Skating Arena where figure skating and short track speed skating disciplines will take place at the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics, in Assago, near Milan, Italy, Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 (AP Photo/Luca Bruno, File)

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Liverpool coach Arne Slot says pressure growing after losing run



Liverpool's manager Arne Slot leaves the pitch after the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Liverpool and PSV in Liverpool, England, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025.

(AP Photo/Jon Super)

By **JAMES ROBSON** AP Soccer Writer

Arne Slot believes the pressure is growing after Liverpool's alarming losing run, he said on Thursday. The defending Premier League champion has lost nine of its last 12

games in all competitions. The 4-1 defeat to PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League on Wednesday was a third in succession when Liverpool has lost by three goals or more.

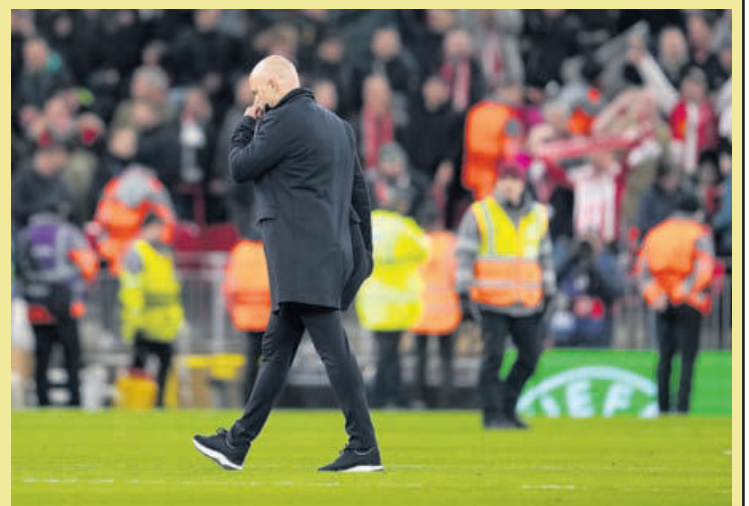
While Slot said after the match that he felt safe

in his position, he also accepts the run brings extra heat.

"There's a lot of pressure if you work or play at a top club and even more so if you start losing more games than this club, or these players or this manager, is used to. So then there's always pressure," said the Liverpool coach. "But there was a lot of pressure last season as well for us to win the league and now it's a different kind of pressure because we've lost so many games."

Liverpool's title defense is unravelling after six losses in its last seven league games. It is 12th in the standings, 11 points behind first-place Arsenal.

Slot was near faultless in his first season at Anfield, leading the club to a record-equaling 20th league crown by a 10-point mar-



gin over runner-up Arsenal. Stepping into one of the most daunting jobs in soccer, he made light of succeeding Liverpool great Jurgen Klopp and was widely expected to retain the title. But his team has looked a shadow of the one that was crowned champion in May, despite spending around \$500 million (377 million pounds) in the offseason on star players like Alexander Isak and Florian Wirtz. Liverpool travels to West Ham on Sunday in danger of being cut further adrift in the title race.

"We fight on and we try to improve. That's what we all try," Slot said. "In the end it's about doing what this club is about, keep fighting and no matter how difficult it is, we have to fight together." The goalkeeper Alisson is back in training for Liverpool after missing the PSV game due to illness and Wirtz could train ahead of the West Ham game after a muscle issue.

Slot said the back problem that forced Hugo Ekitike off against PSV was not expected to be a "big issue." □